

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8260

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2086

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS

SUBJ: PINOCHET SAYS SECURITY MEASURES MUST BE CONTINUED

REF: SANTIAGO 2005

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY. STRICT SECURITY MEASURES MUST CONTINUE IN EFFECT IN CHILE BECAUSE EXTREMIST OPPOSITION FROM LEFT STILL THREATENS PEACE AND TRANQUILITY, ACCORDING TO JUNTA PRES. PINOCHET. END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF WOMEN ON APRIL 17 IN TEMUCO, HIS FIRST STOP IN CURRENT TOUR OF SOUTHERN PROVINCES, PINOCHET SAID EXTREMIST THREAT HAS FAILED MATERIALIZE PRECISELY BECAUSE OF CONTINUED TIGHT SECURITY MEASURES.

3. PINOCHET CITED AS EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED THREAT DISCOVERY TWO SUITCASES OF ARMS ON DAWSON ISLAND, HAND GRENADES IN VALPARAISO, AND "GREAT QUANTITY" OF ARMS IN SANTIAGO. ALTHOUGH GOC IS FUNDAMENTALLY CHRISTIAN, PINOCHET SAID, HARSH MEASURES MUST BE AND WILL BE CONTINUED SO AS TO PERMIT FREEDOM LATER. HE IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE GOVT OVER WHICH HE PRESIDES HAS NOT RPT NOT VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS "AS SOME HAVE CHARGED."

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4. MININTERIOR GEN BONILLA, DURING VISIT TO VALAPRAISO SAME DAY, ELABORATED ON GOC SPOKESMAN WILLOUGHBY'S STATEMENT APRIL 15 (REFTEL). BONILLA SAID SECURITY SERVICES UNCOVERED PLAN BY EXTREMISTS TO USE MILITARY UNIFORMS AS DISGUISE IN ATTACK ON CARDINAL. ANOTHER ASPECT OF EXTREMIST PLOTTING WAS VIOLENCE PLANNED FOR PERIOD MAY 1 (LABOR DAY) TO MAY 21 (ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF IQUIQUE, A CHILEAN HOLIDAY).

5. SOME OF OPPOSITION EXTREMISTS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, SAID BONILLA, BUT COMPARTMENTALIZATION IN THE EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS IMPEDES CAPTURE OF THE LEADERS. HOWEVER, SOONER OR LATER, HE PROMISED, THE GOC WILL GET TO THE CENTER OF THE SKEIN. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT. OTHER THAN THESE GOC STATEMENTS, NO EVIDENCE HAS SURFACED OF ANY SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY BY LEFT EXTREMISTS. EMBASSY BELIEVES RENEWAL GOC EFFORT TO JUSTIFY SECURITY MEASURES IS PRIMARILY REACTION TO PRESSURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATED ISSUES. WE BELIEVE EQUALLY, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE JUNTA MAY SOFTEN LINE SOMEWHAT OUT OF CONCERN FOR ITS IMAGE, IT WILL ACT FIRMLY TO CRUSH ANY OPPOSITION VIOLENCE. POPPER

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